



Ultimate Homeowner's Checklist: Selecting the Perfect House & Pet Sitter

Choosing the Right House/Pet Sitter

Welcome, homeowners, to your ultimate guide for selecting the perfect house and pet sitter! Whether you're jetting off on a well-deserved vacation or traveling for business, finding the right sitter to care for your home and beloved pets is essential for your peace of mind. This checklist is designed to help you navigate the process of choosing a trustworthy and reliable sitter who will provide exceptional care for your property and furry companions while you're away. Let's embark on this journey together and ensure your house and pet sitting experience is nothing short of extraordinary!

1. Define Your Needs:

- Determine your specific requirements for the sitter, including pet care responsibilities, house maintenance tasks, and any additional expectations.

2. Seek Recommendations:

- Ask friends, family members, or neighbors for recommendations on trustworthy house and pet sitters they've used in the past.

3. Conduct Interviews:

- Schedule interviews with potential sitters to discuss their experience, qualifications, and suitability for the role.
- Ask about their previous house and pet sitting experience, familiarity with your type of pets, and comfort level with specific tasks.



4. Check References:

- Request references from previous clients or employers and follow up with them to gather feedback on the sitter's performance and reliability.

5. Verify Credentials:

- Verify the sitter's identity and reputation through trusted platforms like **House Sitters Canada, Mind My House, Rover** and other sites.. Review their profile, ratings, and reviews from previous homeowners to ensure they are reliable and trustworthy caregivers for your home and pets.

6. Discuss Expectations:

- Clearly communicate your expectations for the sitter, including pet care routines, house rules, security measures, and emergency protocols.
- Address any concerns or questions the sitter may have and ensure they are comfortable with the responsibilities involved.

7. Meet in Person:

- Arrange a face-to-face meeting with potential sitters to assess their compatibility with your pets and comfort level in your home environment.
- If an in-person meeting isn't feasible, consider scheduling a video call as an alternative.
- Additionally, exchange phone numbers to facilitate easier communication.

8. Trust Your Instincts:

- Pay attention to your intuition when evaluating potential sitters. Choose someone who you feel confident and comfortable entrusting with your home and pets.

9. Confirm Availability:

- Confirm the sitter's availability for the dates of your absence and discuss any potential conflicts or scheduling issues upfront.



10. Discuss Emergency Procedures and Home Security:

- Review and discuss specific emergency procedures with potential sitters, including contact information for emergency services, veterinarians, and trusted neighbors.
- Clarify the sitter's responsibilities in case of emergencies, such as handling medical situations, securing the property, and contacting you or designated emergency contacts.
- Discuss security measures and expectations for safeguarding your home, such as locking doors and windows, setting alarms, and monitoring for suspicious activity.

11. Evaluate Compatibility with Pets:

- Arrange for the potential sitter to meet your pets during the interview process to assess compatibility and observe their interaction.
- Discuss any concerns or preferences regarding your pets' temperament, behavior, and special needs to ensure the sitter is comfortable and capable of providing appropriate care.

12. Agree on Communication Preferences:

- Establish clear communication channels and preferences with the sitter, including how often you'd like to receive updates and the preferred method of contact (e.g., phone calls, text messages, emails).
- Determine the frequency and level of detail for updates on your pets' well-being and any developments in your home during your absence.

By following these steps, you can select a reliable and trustworthy house and pet sitter who will provide excellent care for your home and furry companions while you're away.



Pet Health and Care Assessment: Questions for Potential Sitters

1. Experience with Pet Medication:

- Have you administered medication to pets before? Can you provide examples of the types of medication you've handled?
- Are you comfortable giving injections, pills, or other forms of medication to pets as prescribed by a veterinarian?

2. Familiarity with Specific Conditions:

- Are you familiar with any specific health conditions or special needs that my pet may have? (e.g., diabetes, allergies, mobility issues)
- Have you cared for pets with similar conditions in the past, and if so, what was your experience?

3. Emergency Preparedness:

- What would you do in the event of a medical emergency or if my pet's health deteriorates while I'm away?
- Do you have basic first aid training for pets, and are you comfortable handling emergency situations?

4. Communication with Veterinarians:

- Are you willing to contact my veterinarian if necessary to discuss my pet's health or seek medical advice?
- How would you handle situations where my pet needs immediate medical attention while I'm away?

5. Observation and Reporting:

- Will you monitor my pet's health and behavior closely during the house sitting period?
- Are you prepared to provide regular updates on my pet's condition and any changes in their health or behavior?



6. Administration of Special Diets:

- Can you follow dietary restrictions or special feeding instructions for my pet, if applicable?
- Are you comfortable preparing and serving specialized meals or administering supplements as needed?

7. Comfort Level with Veterinary Visits:

- Are you willing to accompany my pet to veterinary appointments if required, and can you transport them safely?
- How would you handle situations where my pet needs routine medical care or check-ups while I'm away?

8. Problem-Solving Scenarios:

- How would you handle situations where my pet refuses to take medication or experiences adverse reactions?
- Can you provide examples of challenging situations you've encountered while caring for pets and how you resolved them?

By asking these questions, homeowners can assess a potential sitter's experience, expertise, and readiness to handle their pet's health needs during the house sitting period. It's crucial to ensure that the sitter is knowledgeable, reliable, and capable of providing the necessary care and attention to keep pets healthy and happy in the owner's absence.